

FURTHER LIZARDS AND SNAKES FROM PERSIA AND
MESOPOTAMIA.

BY

JOAN B. PROCTER, F.Z.S.

Since the publication of Mr. Boulenger's lists of the Snakes and Lizards collected by the Expeditionary Forces in Mesopotamia¹, further material has been received from Capt. H. E. Shortt, I.M.S., and Capt. W. E. Evans, R. A. M. C. ; Mr. Kinnear has therefore asked me to write the following addendum, in which species marked with an asterisk were not recorded by Mr. Boulenger.

Besides snakes and lizards, which are the subject of this paper, the following were included in the collections :—*Cnemidophorus caspica* (Capt. Evans), *Bufo viridis* (Capt. Evans) and *Hyla arborea* var. *savigni* (Capt. Shortt and Capt. Evans).

LACERTITIA.

GECKONIDÆ.

1. *Alsophylax tuberculata*,* Blanf.

Jebel Hamrin, N. E. of Baghdad (Capt. Evans).

One specimen, well marked with alternate, curved transverse bands of light and dark grey; lower surfaces speckled with grey.

Habitat : Mesopotamia, Southern Persia, Baluchistan, Sind.

2. *Phyllodactylus elisæ*,* Werner,

Kuretu², Persian frontier (Capt. Shortt).

Three specimens of this rare gecko. They show considerable variation in the proportions and arrangements of the mental and chin-shields. In the case of the first specimen the mental is moderate, followed by two pairs of chin-shields, the first pair in contact in the middle for a distance equalling half their length, as in the type-specimens; in the second the first pair of chin-shields are only in contact for about one-quarter of their length, the mental shield being larger in proportion; in the third specimen the mental is enormous, followed by a single pair of large triangular chin-shields, which are not in contact with each other.

This amount of variation is very unusual, were it not for the intermediate form one might consider the third specimen to be a distinct species. The first specimen is almost white; the other two are thickly speckled with very dark brown.

Habitat : Mesopotamia. Capt. Shortt tells me that he caught these geckos in natural caves formed by overhanging rocks. The types are from the ruins of Nineveh.

3. *Hemidactylus persicus*,* Anders.

Baghdad (Capt. Shortt), Amara-on-Tigris (Capt. Evans),

Three specimens

Habitat : Mesopotamia, Persia, Sind. A new Record for Mesopotamia.

4. *Hemidactylus flaviviridis** Ruppi.

One specimen from Amara (Capt. Evans).

Habitat : Arabia, Persia, Baluchistan, India and Malay Peninsula.

¹ Journ., Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., xxvii, No. 2, pp. 347-353 (1920),

² Also spelled Quritu or Quraitu.

AGAMIDÆ.

5. *Agama persica*, Blanf.

Two specimens from Amara (Capt. Evans).

Note by Capt. Evans:—

“ This lizard had the power of producing the purple-blue colour under its face and neck, and along its sides ; or of losing the colour entirely, except a faint rusty tinge on the sides only. The change could be accomplished in a minute or two. I had it alive for some time.”

Habitat : Mesopotamia, Persia.

6. *Agama nupta*, De Fil.

One specimen from Jebel Hamrin (Capt. Evans).

One specimen from Kuretu, (Capt. Shortt).

Var. *fusca*,* Blanf.

One specimen, ♂ from Kangavar (Capt. Shortt).

This specimen must be regarded as var. *fusca* on account of the great development of the spines on the head and neck, and the indistinctness of the nuchal fold. Its colouration is different from the true *fusca*, being dark grey, mottled with black on the neck and shoulders ; throat black instead of yellow ; enlarged dorsal scales greenish grey.

Habitat : Mesopotamia, Persia, Baluchistan.

7. *Uromastix loricatus*,* Blanf.

One specimen from Ruz, N. E. of Baghdad (Capt. Evans).

Habitat : Mesopotamia, Persia.

A new record for Mesopotamia.

LACERTIDÆ.

8. *Acanthodactylus scutellatus*, Anders.

One specimen from Jebel Hamrin (Capt. Evans).

Habitat : Senegambia, North Africa, Somaliland, Sinaitic Peninsula, Syria, Mesopotamia.

9. *Ophiops elegans*, Mén.

Var. *ehrenbergii*, Wieg.

Four specimens, from Kuretu, (Capt. Shortt).

Five specimens from Jebel Hamrin, Kizil Robot, and Abu Sidra on Tigris (Capt. Evans).

Habitat : Constantinople and Tripoli to N. W. India.

10. *Eremias veloc*,* Pall.

Var. *persica*, Blanf.

One specimen from Kuretu (Capt. Shortt)

Habitat : Mesopotamia, Persia.

SCINCIDÆ.

11. *Mabuia vittata*, Oliv.

One specimen from Amara (Capt. Evans).

Habitat : Algeria to Mesopotamia.

12. *Mabuia septemtaeniata*, Reuss.

One specimen from Kuretu (Capt. Shortt).

Two from Amara (Capt. Evans).

Habitat : Erythrea to Transcaspia and Sind.

13. *Ablepharus brandtii*, Strauch.

Five specimens from Amara, and three from near Kizil Robat, N. E. of Baghdad (Capt. Evans).

Habitat : Tunisia to Transcaspia and Baluchistan.

OPHIDIA.

COLUBRINÆ.

14. *Zamenis ventrimaculatus*, Gray.

One young, Baghdad (Capt. Shortt).

Two young from Amara (Capt. Evans).

One from Amara has the præfrontals fused into a single shield.

Habitat : From the Euphrates to Kashmir and N. W. India.

15. *Zamenis ravergeri*,* Mén.

One specimen from Kerind, Persia (Capt. Shortt).

This individual is jet black above, dark grey below, uniform.

Capt. Shortt says of it :—"Taken sunning itself in midwinter when the ground was covered with snow. I have seen the same snake also taken at Fatha Gorge on the Tigris."

Habitat : Transcaucasia, Mesopotamia, Persian Transcaspia, Turkestan, Afganistan.

16. *Contia collaris*, Mén.

One specimen from Tak-I-Girreh, N. W. Persia (Capt. Evans).

Habitat : Caucasus, Mesopotamia, Persia.

17. *Contia persica*,* Anders.

Two specimens from Kizil Robat and Jebel Hamrin hills, N. E. of Baghdad (Capt. Evans).

This rare little snake has not been recorded from Mesopotamia before.

Habitat : Mesopotamia, Persia.

